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TESTIMONIALS TO HERMAN RIDDER AND HENRY W. SACKETT

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Testimonials of
Appreciation

to

HERMAN RIDDER

Acting President

and

HENRY W. SACKETT

Secretary

of

The Hudson-Fulton
Celebration Commission

MARCH, 1910

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HUDSON-FULTON
CELEBRATION COMMISSION
154 Nassau Street, New York

March 15, 1910

Dear Sir:

The Committee having charge of the presentation of testimonials to Mr. Herman Ridder, Acting President, and Colonel Henry W. Sackett, Secretary of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission, have the pleasure to report the discharge of their agreeable duty. Following is a statement of the circumstances attending the presentations:

As the affairs of this Commission were drawing to a close, it seemed to several members that some suitable recognition should be made of the exceptional and very valuable services rendered by Mr. Ridder and Colonel Sackett, both of whom, during more than four years of continuous service, have made great sacrifices in their devotion to the Commission's work. This sentiment was shared by General Wood-

ford, the President of the Commission, who had already received the formal expression of the Commission's appreciation, and who is now abroad receiving great honor as the representative of the Commission.

With a view to carrying out this idea, the undersigned were requested to act as a Committee. As both propriety and the established policy of the Commission dictated that these testimonials should not be made at the expense of the public funds of the Commission, the opportunity to provide the necessary means was offered to as many members of the Commission as seemed to be necessary to insure the success of the undertaking and to afford an index of the sentiment of the Commission. The immediate and generous response was a sufficient indication of the unanimity of the sentiment designed to be expressed by the testimonials.

As the Commission had restricted the striking of the Official Medal in gold, like those presented to the Governments, the Committee had two medals of Alaska gold, three inches in diameter,

Obverse of Gold Medals Presented to
HERMAN RIDDER and HENRY W. SACKETT
Actual Size

Designed by Chester Beach
Executed by Tiffany & Co.

Reverse of Gold Medals Presented to
HERMAN RIDDER and HENRY W. SACKETT
Actual Size

struck from dies cut for this purpose from the models designed by Mr. Chester Beach for the medallion of the Official Badge. At the same time a third medal was struck in bronze for the sculptor. No others were struck from these dies, and the testimonials are therefore unique.

Upon the edges of the two gold medals were engraved the following inscriptions respectively:

"A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION COMMISSION TO HERMAN RIDDER, ACTING PRESIDENT, FOR HIS VALUABLE SERVICES, 1905–1910."

"A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION COMMISSION TO HENRY WOODWARD SACKETT, SECRETARY, FOR HIS VALUABLE SERVICES, 1905–1910."

The medals were inclosed in leather cases which were respectively stamped:

"HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION.
HERMAN RIDDER, 1905–1910"

and

"HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION.
HENRY WOODWARD SACKETT, 1905–1910"

Replicas of the obverse and reverse of the medals, mounted in frames to be hung in the libraries of the recipients, were also prepared.

The following letters were beautifully engrossed and illuminated in book form to accompany the testimonials:

New York,
March 10, 1910

To the Hon. Herman Ridder.

Dear Mr. Ridder:

The delightful privilege has been accorded to us by members of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission, whose names are hereto attached, to present to you on their behalf the accompanying medal in gold, which they hope you will accept not only as a souvenir of the Celebration, but as an evidence of their high appreciation of the great service rendered by you to the Commission.

The medal presented is an enlargement of the Official Badge. Your friends felt that they had no authority to use the official die of the Commission, and as their wish was to pay to you a personal tribute of respect and regard, they have caused this medal to be struck for the purpose.

We wish we could convey to you a sense of the cordiality with which every one has responded to the proposal. It is clear that your long and public-spirited labor of love for the City of New York in helping so superbly, as Acting Presi-

dent of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission, to carry to success that Celebration, has won for you a host of friends, whose admiration for your courage, your energy, your enthusiasm, and your faith in the success of the enterprise, is only second to their high personal regard for you as a man.

On behalf of the members of the Commission who have had the privilege of taking part in this tribute,

We have the honor to be,

Yours very sincerely,

Seth Low, Chairman
William Berri
George F. Kunz
John E. Parsons
Francis Lynde Stetson

Edward D. Adams
Louis Annin Ames
John D. Archbold
John Jacob Astor
George Clinton Batcheller
James M. Beck
August Belmont
William Berri
Cornelius K. G. Billings
Emil L. Boas
George C. Boldt
George S. Bowdoin
George V. Brower
Henry W. Cannon
Howard Carroll
Joseph H. Choate
Paul D. Cravath
William J. Curtis
R. Fulton Cutting
Robert W. de Forest
Chauncey M. Depew
Samuel W. Fairchild
Stuyvesant Fish
Charles S. Francis
Alfred B. Fry
George J. Gould

Frederick D. Grant
Henry E. Gregory
Edward Hagaman Hall
Thomas H. Hubbard
Archer M. Huntington
August F. Jaccaci
Arthur C. James
Horatio C. King
George F. Kunz
Charles R. Lamb
Gustav Lindenthal
Seth Low
Arthur MacArthur
William McCarroll
Anson G. McCook
John J. McCook
Jacob W. Miller
J. Pierpont Morgan
Levi P. Morton
William C. Muschenheim
Morgan J. O'Brien
Willis L. Ogden
Eben E. Olcott
Henry Fairfield Osborn
Alton B. Parker
John E. Parsons
Samuel Parsons
George W. Perkins
N. Taylor Phillips
Eugene H. Porter
Horace Porter
Thomas R. Proctor
Cornelius A. Pugsley
Louis C. Raegener
William Rockefeller
Charles F. Roe
Herbert L. Satterlee
Jacob H. Schiff
Jacob Gould Schurman
Isaac N. Seligman
Frederick W. Seward
James Speyer
Francis Lynde Stetson
Stevenson Taylor
Eliot Tuckerman
Cornelius Vanderbilt
John W. Vrooman
Edmund Wetmore
William R. Willcox
James Grant Wilson
Louis Windmuller
Stewart L. Woodford
Timothy L. Woodruff

New York, March 10, 1910

To Colonel Henry W. Sackett.

Dear Colonel Sackett:

The delightful privilege has been accorded to us by members of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission, whose names are hereto attached, to present to you on their behalf the accompanying medal in gold, which they hope you will accept not only as a souvenir of the Celebration, but as an evidence of their high appreciation of the great service rendered by you to the Commission.

The medal presented is an enlargement of the Official Badge. Your friends felt that they had no authority to use the official die of the Commission, and as their wish was to pay to you a personal tribute of respect and regard, they have caused this medal to be struck for the purpose.

We wish we could convey to you a sense of the cordiality with which every one has responded to the proposal. It is clear that your long and public-spirited labor of love for the City of New York in helping to carry to success the Hudson-Fulton Celebration has won for you a host of friends. Your associates of the Commission fully appreciate the unique contribution which you made to the success of the Celebration. They understand, in an imperfect way, what it means

to give, as you have given, many months of your time to the patient handling of one perplexing question after another. It has been to them at all times a source of satisfaction to know that the work of the Secretary of the Commission has been in hands so entirely competent and safe; and most of them are your debtors for much personal courtesy and consideration.

On behalf of the members of the Commission who have had the privilege of taking part in this tribute,

We have the honor to be,

Yours very sincerely,

Seth Low, Chairman
William Berri
George F. Kunz
John E. Parsons
Francis Lynde Stetson

The names of the contributors were also engrossed in this letter.

The medals, framed replicas, and engrossed letters were prepared by Tiffany & Co.

Owing to the prospective departure of Colonel Sackett on Saturday, March 12, for several weeks' absence in the South and far West, it

was not practicable to arrange for the presentation of the testimonials at a formal gathering. They were therefore sent on Friday, March 11, to the recipients, who acknowledged them as follows:

March 11, 1910

Hon. Seth Low,

30 East Sixty-fourth Street,

New York City.

My dear Mr. Mayor:

Your favor of March 11 and the box containing the engrossed letter, gold medal, and replica received just now.

The pleasure and surprise are so great that I cannot find words to properly thank you for what will be the best heritage I can leave to my sons.

I will take the earliest opportunity to personally thank you and your associates for the great and undeserved honor you have done me.

Yours faithfully,

Herman Ridder.

March 11, 1910

My dear Dr. Low:

I do not know how adequately to thank you and the other members of your Committee and of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission from whom I received this afternoon the beautiful medal and its replica and the illuminated message that accompanied them. I am touched more deeply than I can express.

This is far more than my due for any service I have been able to render to the great undertaking in which so many of you have, with at least equal devotion, been working unitedly and with common purpose.

There have been two features of the work of the Commission that are most gratifying and almost unique. One is the fact that so large a number of the most representative men in the community have disinterestedly united in giving so much time and effort, as well as such generous pecuniary aid, out of love for their City and State, to advance this public enterprise. The other fine feature was the harmony that has uniformly prevailed in the councils of the Commission and has made its action upon all important questions one of absolute unanimity.

I believe these to be the two things that made our Celebration so great and so successful; they

certainly made association with it officially a privilege and a pleasure that can leave only inspiring memories.

That my associates in this work should think me worthy of such tokens of their esteem as these that have come to me to-day, is repayment, a thousandfold, for whatever I have been able to do to further the work of the Commission. They will always be of priceless worth to me. I shall prize them more than the highest honors or greatest decorations that could be bestowed by any ruler or potentate on earth.

Let me extend to you, my dear Dr. Low, and to Messrs. Berri, Parsons, Stetson, and Kunz of your Committee, and through you to all our associates upon the Commission from whom these gifts and this message have come, the assurances of my sincere appreciation and everlasting gratitude.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry W. Sackett.

March 12

The Hon. Seth Low,
Chairman.

My dear Mr. Low:

I wish to thank the Committee for the medal presented me, and yourself for the kind wording of your letter of March 11. They will both remain pleasant things to look back on, in the work.

Believe me sincerely yours,

Chester Beach.

In behalf of the Committee, I am

Yours very truly,

Seth Low, Chairman.

Seth Low, Chairman
William Berri
George F. Kunz
John E. Parsons
Francis Lynde Stetson
Committee

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